

I am very concerned about the FCC's contemplation of removing the laws that prohibit the same company from owning both a newspaper and a TV station in the same geographic area, and laws that limit the percent of the national audience that a single cable company can reach.

My personal feeling is that the most dynamic times in our history have been marked by a vast array of different publications, espousing every opinion imaginable on any particular issue. For example, during our Revolutionary period, each of the major American cities supported dozens of different newspapers. On the other hand, a limited number of media voices and autocratic governments seem to go hand in hand, even when these media outlets are independent of the government.

Furthermore, much like our nation's radio stations prior to their deregulation, our local newspapers provide each city with a specific regional perspective, not only due to the fact that they are reporting local events, but because of their special editorial perspective, tone of voice, rhetorical style, etc. I worry that a large media corporation would be less concerned about preserving these unique features as their cost saving desires lead them towards stream-lining their news production.

Please consider during your review that the strength of a democratic government is proportional to its ability to represent all of the viewpoints of her citizenry. Further consolidations of our television, radio and newspapers will inevitably diminish people's ability to understand all perspectives of the complex issues that our nation faces, for no other reason than the voices of those other perspectives will have been effectively silenced.

Yours Sincerely,
Jeffrey J. Adams